

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
GRANT APPLICATION**

*(please fill in the highlighted areas)*

**I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

- A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1
- C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854
- Telephone: 406-677-6454
- D. Contact Person: Rylen Neudecker
- Address if different from Applicant:
- City:  State:  Zip:
- Telephone:
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name  
(if other than Applicant): Heart-Heart Ranch/Mr. Roy O'Connor
- Mailing Address: 401 Valley of Moon Rd
- City: Clinton State: MT Zip: 59825
- Telephone: 406.728.0864

**II. PROJECT INFORMATION\***

- A. Project Name: Pearson Creek Restoration Project
- River, stream, or lake: Pearson Creek
- Location: Township 15N Range 13W Section 34
- County: Powell
- B. Purpose of Project:  
Restore westslope cutthroat trout habitat in order to increase population abundance within Pearson Creek, Chamberlain Creek and the Blackfoot River.
- C. Brief Project Description:

Pearson Creek is a second-order tributary to Chamberlain Creek with a base flow of about one-cfs. The stream supports populations of resident and migratory westslope cutthroat trout and has been the focus of past restoration activities including a donated water lease, restoration of 4,000 feet of stream, riparian revegetation and grazing management projects. Despite these changes, the recovery of westslope cutthroat trout in Pearson Creek continues to be hampered by an impaired reach of channel and an undersized culvert. This project will correct these channel alterations by restoring natural channel form, function and flow regimes to this reach of stream.

In order to meet restoration objectives, four project elements have been identified. These include: 1) reconstruction of 1,300 feet of new channel where the stream is currently channelized, perched and bermed above the valley floor, 2) replacement of undersized culvert to restore aquatic organism passage at all ranges of flow and correct improper road drainage conditions, 3) riparian revegetation using native woody plants, and 4) grazing management changes that include riparian fencing to protect and improve cutthroat trout habitat. Project details, data, maps and photos are included in the attached *Pearson Creek Restoration Report*.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated:

~1,300 feet of channel and the new road crossing structure will improve fish passage to the upper seven miles of Pearson Creek.

E. Project Budget:

**Grant Request (Dollars):** \$ **36,500**

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ **3,000** In-kind \$ **13,500**  
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ **37,000** In-kind \$ **2,500**  
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

**Total Project Cost:** \$ **92,500**

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire ([fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc](http://fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc)).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

### III. PROJECT BENEFITS\*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope cutthroat trout.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

The Blackfoot River watershed in Montana is a critical area for populations of westslope cutthroat trout, a "species of special concern". A variety of life history traits ranging from migratory to stream-resident traits are still expressed throughout the watershed and the focus of westslope cutthroat trout recovery in the Blackfoot Watershed is centered around reestablishing fluvial life history forms while maintaining genetically pure population isolates. Westslope cutthroat trout require more complex habitat, colder water, lower sediment levels and more tributary access than currently exists in many areas of the Blackfoot Watershed. We view the Pearson Creek project as an opportunity to improve habitat conditions on an important westslope cutthroat trout stream, in a watershed where the life-histories of Blackfoot River westslope cutthroat trout depend upon functioning tributaries for spawning and rearing habitat.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by providing off-site recruitment to the Blackfoot River. Pearson Creek is a tributary to Chamberlain Creek which enters a portion of the Blackfoot River that receives very high angling pressure. Radio-telemetry studies conducted from spawners in the Blackfoot River show that Chamberlain Creek supports a large migratory component of westslope cutthroat trout from the Blackfoot River.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by restoring habitat conditions for migratory cutthroat trout, thereby increasing downstream westslope cutthroat trout recruitment into the Blackfoot River.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The landowners have committed to signing a 20-year agreement.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of a westslope cutthroat stream. Public benefits include: 1) recruitment of recreational fisheries to the Blackfoot River, 2) improving the status of a species of special concern, and 3) improved water quality (temperature and sediment reductions) on-site and downstream.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

**IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT**

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Sponsor (if applicable):

**\*Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To:**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Habitat Protection Bureau  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

**Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.**

**Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.**

**\*\*\*Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.\*\*\***